



Photo by Dennis Hill

## INSIDE:

## EBEY'S FOREVER

Welcome!  
page 2Washington State Parks  
within the Reserve  
Page 3Become a Junior Ranger!  
Page 8Map and Need to Knows  
Page 4-5

Follow us on Instagram  
and share your experiences!  
@EBEYFOREVER and  
#EBEYFOREVER

"THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED THE EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE IN ORDER PRESERVE AND PROTECT A RURAL COMMUNITY WHICH PROVIDES AN UNBROKEN HISTORICAL RECORD FROM NINETEENTH CENTURY EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT IN PUGET SOUND TO THE PRESENT TIME...[P.L. 95-625]."

In the early 1970s, local citizens organized to halt a housing development slated for Ebey's Prairie. The effort became a balancing act – to find a way to preserve a cherished and historically significant place, without sacrificing the needs and future of a working rural community. Believing that local government and citizens were needed to find that balance, Congress established Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve in 1978.

The legislation establishing the Reserve contains two points that are essential to understanding the Reserve. First, the Reserve was established to preserve and protect a living rural community – much more complex than preserving a historic site. Second, it is continuity that makes the Reserve's history so significant. The story of the Reserve is not a thing of the past – it is kept alive by people who continue to live, work and maintain deep connections with the natural and historic landscape.

The Reserve concept is what makes the balancing act possible. Reserves differ from parks in their approach to preservation and management. For Ebey's Reserve, this means that the land within the Reserve is not owned or regulated by any one agency (see A Partnership Story). While there are federal, state, town and county lands within the Reserve, a surprising 85% is privately owned. Preservation occurs through land donations, tax incentives, local land use regulation, conservation easements, and the cooperation of property owners. Success means that the landscape, the community, and its history will continue forever, to be shared, protected and enjoyed by future generations.

## 120,000 Years of Local History

THE ISLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ICHS) Museum is one of many treasures you will discover when visiting Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. With two floors of exhibits, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dedicated to the Janet Enzmann Archives and Research Library, the museum serves as the repository for Island County history, and features two main galleries: "Native People – Native Places" celebrating the history of the local indigenous peoples spanning some 10,000 years and featuring a 28-foot Nootkan-style cedar dugout canoe. Baskets, stone points and implements, along with historic and contemporary photos of the first settlers of the region complete the exhibit. "Industrious Islanders" delves into the lives and times of "the new settlers" – an eclectic mix of sea captains, immigrants, and Oregon Trail pioneers.

History runs deep in Island County. You'll find 10,000-12,000 year old Columbian mammoth remains and an Ice Age fir tree, squished flat by the immense Vashon Glacier, 120,000 years ago! A third gallery features ever-changing exhibits, such as the "Salish Bounty" or "The NW Treaty Trail". Visit the Museum Store for

an unmatched assortment of local and regional history books, videos, postcards, and unique gift items.

The Island County Historical Society was started in 1949, with hopes of saving a beautiful Victorian courthouse from the wrecking ball. Sadly, that project didn't work out

*Continued on p. 8*



Coupeville's Front Street, circa 1890

# Welcome!



Welcome to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve! Whether you are a resident, history buff, farm lover, or outdoor recreation enthusiast, I hope you enjoy your visit to our nation's first National Historical Reserve.

As you explore the Reserve's history and scenic beauty, I encourage you to also look behind the scenes, for evidence of the deep tradition of stewardship and grassroots action that helped create the Reserve and ensure its future. Volunteerism, cooperation, historic preservation, land conservation, sustainable farming, thoughtful planning, and creative development – all of these are at work in the Reserve and contribute to its success.

I hope you find inspiration in the story of Ebey's Reserve. This guide will introduce some of the partners who have made it possible. The "Need to Know" tips on the map page will help you plan a safe and memorable visit. The best way to honor this special place is to enjoy it!

*Krist Higgs*  
Reserve Manager

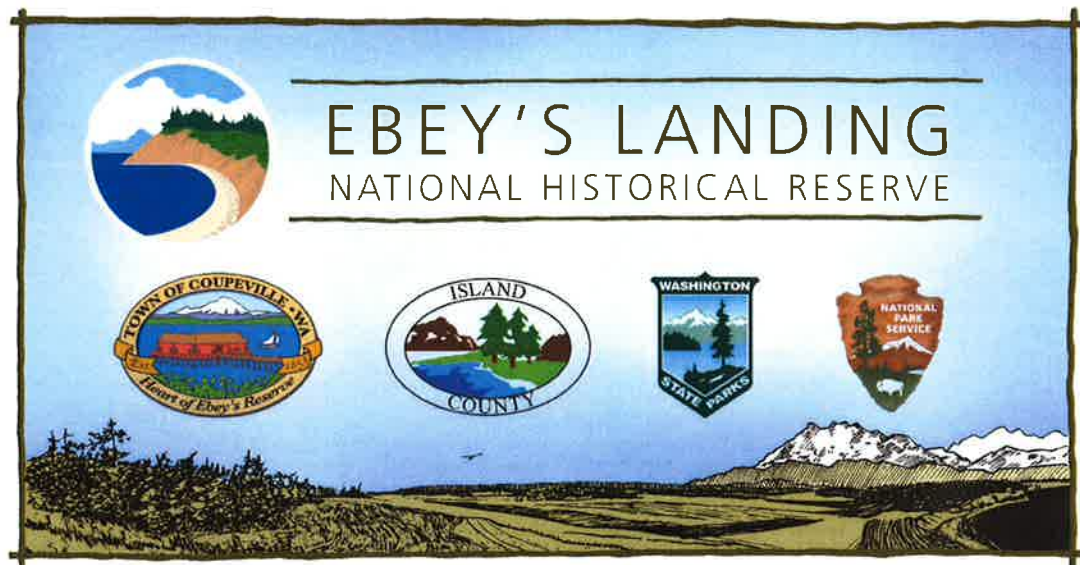
## Trust Board of Ebey's Landing NHR

162 Cemetery Rd./P.O. Box 774  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
Ph: 360.678.6084

Website:  
[www.nps.gov/ebia](http://www.nps.gov/ebia)

Instagram:  
[@ebeyforever](https://www.instagram.com/ebeyforever)  
[#ebeyforever](https://www.instagram.com/ebeyforever)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/EbeyLandingNHR](https://www.facebook.com/EbeyLandingNHR)



## A PARTNERSHIP STORY

WHEN THE RESERVE WAS ESTABLISHED, it represented a bold new way of thinking about protection and preservation. Instead of management by a single government entity, the Reserve would be managed jointly by four partners: Island County, the Town of Coupeville, Washington State Parks, and the National Park Service. Through a nine-member Trust Board, the partners work together to protect, preserve and interpret the Reserve for current and future generations.

What makes this so distinctive? Although the Reserve was established by Congress because of its nationally significant history and resources, the partnership was crafted to ensure that all of the jurisdictions would be truly equal partners in its management, reflecting an exceptionally strong commitment to shared stewardship and local participation.

It has been nearly 28 years since the partnership was put into action. In that time, the partnership has successfully managed the Reserve by setting policy, managing programs, engaging the public, and monitoring the voluntary easements that protect the land.

So as you visit the Reserve, you might see the partner logos displayed separately, together, or even replaced by the round Ebey's Reserve logo, which proudly signifies collaborative stewardship, unified goals, and the work of all the partners.



Representing the Reserve's four major partners (Island County, Town of Coupeville, Washington State Parks, National Park Service), the Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve oversees management of Ebey's Reserve. Fran Einterz, Lisa Meserole, Molly Hughes, Jan Pickard, Mark Sheehan, Al Sherman, Eric Watilo. Not pictured: Wilbur Bishop, Hank Florence.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TURNS 100 IN 2016



HELLO AND WELCOME! As the National Park Service Operation Manager for Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, I invite you to help celebrate the upcoming centennial of the National Park Service right here on Whidbey Island.

The theme of the 2016 centennial, FINDYOURPARK, highlights the breadth and diversity of experiences the system offers, from large, iconic natural parks to less well known areas like preserves, trails, seashores, heritage areas and more. All are ready to offer inspiration and adventure.

I hope you will join the celebration and FINDYOURPARK at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, a unique part of the National Park System and a perfect place to discover history, heritage and healthy outdoor recreation. Tell us what inspires you – share your photos and stories at [www.FINDYOURPARK.com](http://www.FINDYOURPARK.com) – Roy Zipp, National Park Service

FIND YOUR  
**PARK**  
FINDYOURPARK.COM

**2016**  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



# Discover the Washington State Parks in the Reserve

ARE YOU SEEKING HISTORY, wildlife, hiking trails, biking trails, great views, beaches or a quiet place? You can find them all here at Washington State Parks on Central Whidbey Island. Do you want to visit a lighthouse? We have it. Do you want to visit a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century fort? We have it. Do you want to walk a trail along coastal bluffs? We have it. Looking for future camping sites? We have them. There are three State Parks within the boundaries of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve; **Fort Casey**, **Ebey's Landing**, and **Fort Ebey** State Parks. Each park is different and we invite you to visit all three. All three offer public parking and restrooms.

## Where to Purchase Your Pass within the Reserve

### Fort Casey State Park

- Automated pay station in main parking lot for both day and annual pass.
- Park Office (hours vary) for both day and annual pass.
- Self-serve pay envelope stations throughout parking lots for day pass only.

### Fort Ebey State Park

- Park Office (hours vary) for both day and annual pass.
- Self-serve pay envelope stations throughout parking lots for day pass only.

### Online from your computer or smartphone

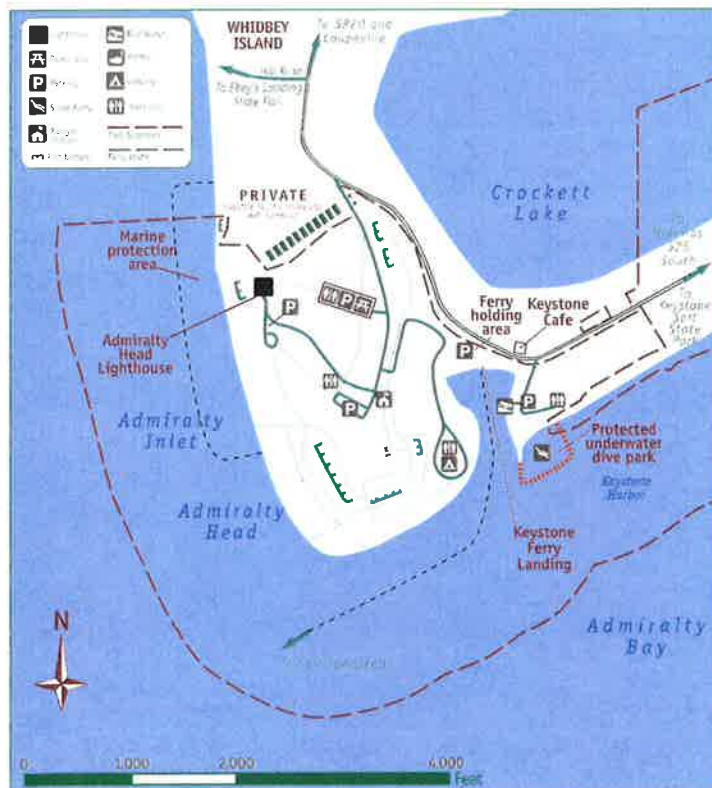
- <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/wdfw/dp.html>



## Washington State Parks Fee Free Days

Periodically, throughout the year, Washington State Parks is pleased to offer days when no Discover Pass is required. These Fee Free dates change each year, so be sure to contact the Discover Pass website for a list of current Fee Free dates – [www.discoverpass.com](http://www.discoverpass.com).

## FORT CASEY STATE PARK



1280 Engle Rd, Coupeville, WA 98239 • Information Center 360-902-8844

## Scheduled Events

(Events are free but parking fee required\*.)

### Fort Casey State Park

#### Fort Tours- Memorial Day through Labor Day

Fridays 2:30  
Saturdays/Sundays 1:00 & 2:30  
Holiday Mondays 2:30  
(Tours begin at white kiosk between main parking lot and the gun emplacements)

#### Admiralty Head Lighthouse

June-August	Open daily	11:00-5:00
September	Open Friday-Monday	11:00-5:00
October	Open Saturday-Sunday	11:00-5:00
November-February	Closed	
March	Open Saturday-Sunday	11:00-5:00
April	Open Friday-Monday	11:00-5:00
May	Open Thursday-Monday	11:00-5:00

#### \*Discover Pass is Required for Day Use Parking

There is a parking fee required for day use at any Washington State Park.

\$10 per day and is good for parking in all State Parks and other state recreation lands on date of purchase. \$30 per year for the Discover Pass, good at all State Parks and other state-owned recreation lands.

The Washington State Legislature and Governor created the Discover Pass in 2011 to offset steep reductions in general tax support for parks and other recreation lands and facilities operated by Washington State Parks, The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Today, when you buy the Discover Pass, you are helping to keep the state's wonderful outdoor recreation sites open and accessible to the public.

Please note that fee free days apply only to day use (not overnight stays or rented facilities). A Discover Pass is still required to access lands managed by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources and Fish & Wildlife. Sno-Park permits are still required on fee free days at designated Sno-Parks during the winter season.

## For More Information

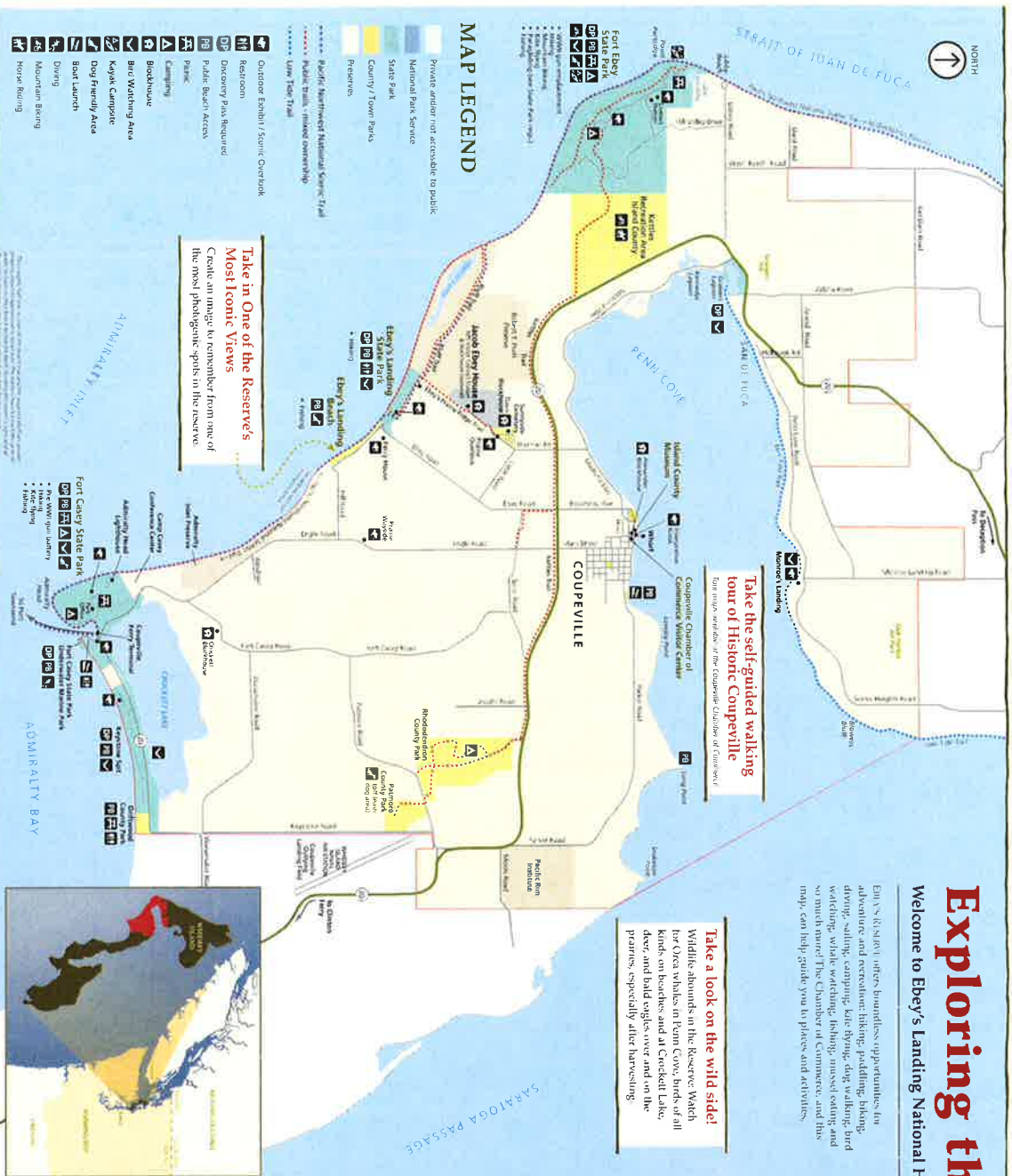
- To learn more about these and other Washington State Parks go to [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov).
- You can also contact the main office for these three State Parks at (360) 678-4519.
- Admiralty Head Lighthouse staff can be contacted at (360) 678-1186.
- To make campsite reservations at Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks go to [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov) and click on the Reservations tile or call (888) 226-7688.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to Washington State Parks and Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.

## FORT EBEY STATE PARK



400 Hill Valley Drive, Coupeville, WA • Information Center 360-902-8844





## Iconic Buildings of Ebey's Reserve



Photo by Carl Stephens, Jr.



Photo by Genae Girdler

Perhaps no other building represents Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve as well as the Ferry House. Built by the Ebey family between 1859 and 1860, the Ferry House sits on Isaac Ebey's Donation Land Claim – the first such claim in the Reserve. The Ferry House served locals and those arriving by ferry at Ebey's Landing as an inn, tavern, post office and stage connection. The National Park Service acquired the house from The Nature Conservancy in 2000 (adjacent farm fields are privately owned and should not be entered). The house has been stabilized but further preservation is needed. It is not open to the public at this time. For more information about the history of the Ferry House, a brief Site Bulletin is available on the Reserve's website: [www.nps.gov/ebela](http://www.nps.gov/ebela).



The Jacob and Sarah Ebey House was built in 1856 by the parents of Isaac Ebey, the first permanent Euro-American settler in the Reserve. The "hall and parlor" form plank frame house, and the nearby hewn log block-house, tell the story of the early farmers who claimed land in what is now the Reserve. Under the Donation Land Law of 1850, settlers were able to claim 320 acres for free (a wife could claim an additional 320 acres), provided they could work and improve the land for four years. The National Park Service acquired the house from The Nature Conservancy in 2000. Volunteer docents open the house to the public Thursday – Sunday, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For more information about the history of the Jacob and Sarah Ebey House, a brief Site Bulletin is available on the Reserve's website: [www.nps.gov/ebela](http://www.nps.gov/ebela).

## The Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship

THE PACIFIC RIM INSTITUTE for Environmental Stewardship (PRI) equips people and communities to live sustainably and care for creation on its 175 acre property, located on Smith Prairie within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Protection and enhancement of rare, native ecosystems is a priority at PRI, with nearly 30 acres of native prairie under restoration, as is the education programs attended by both college and high school students.

The public is always welcome at PRI to explore several miles of trails open to the public, and facilities can be rented for meetings and events. In early May PRI hosts the Annual Prairie Open House featuring daily naturalist tours into the heart of the native prairie. Come September, it's the Annual Whidbey Raptor Day. Get up close and personal with hunters of the air as local falconers bring their feathered friends and share about their ecology and history. Free and great for all ages.

Contact Pacific Rim Institute for tour information, or visit our website at [www.pacificriminstitute.org](http://www.pacificriminstitute.org).

– Pacific Rim Institute



## FROM A FORT TO A CAMP – CAMP CASEY

AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, the U.S. Army opened "Fort Casey", named in honor of Brigadier General Thomas Lincoln Casey. Within 20 years, Fort Casey was the fourth largest military post in Washington, housing 10 officers and 428 enlisted men.

The Army used the fortification to guard the entrance to Puget Sound until World War II. Seattle Pacific University became the property's owner when it was decommissioned in the 1950s. Today, SPU continues to welcome school groups, churches, nonprofits, and outdoor education classes to this remarkable historical site. For more information on Camp Casey, visit the website at [www.spu.edu/casey](http://www.spu.edu/casey).

– Camp Casey Conference Center

## Discover Ebey's and Become a Junior Ranger!

Children ages 7 to 14 are invited to Discover Ebey's and earn their Junior Ranger badge and patch by completing the Ebey's Junior Ranger book. You'll discover Native American places, why agriculture is so important in the Reserve, and some of the history. It's a great way for the entire family to learn more about the Reserve and why this place matters!

Pick up your Junior Ranger Activity Books at the Trust Board Cottage, the Ebey House, the Island County Historical Museum and the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce. Complete the book and join the corp! It's fun, FREE, and easy!



Visit online at:

[www.pacificriminstitute.org](http://www.pacificriminstitute.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/pacificriminstitute>

# The Land Trust and Ebey's Reserve



*Protecting our Treasured  
Lands & Waters*

For more information about the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, and to learn how you can get involved, please contact us.

**www.wclt.org**  
**(360) 222-3310**

THE WHIDBEY CAMANO LAND TRUST was incorporated in 1984 as a nonprofit nature conservancy organization by a group of citizens who wanted to save the great beauty and nature of Whidbey and Camano Islands – including working farms, natural habitats for fish and wildlife, undeveloped shoreline, trail and beach access, and scenic vistas. It is the mission of the Land Trust is to actively involve the community in protecting, restoring, and appreciating the important natural habitats and resource lands that support the diversity of life on our islands and in the waters of Puget Sound.

In Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, the Land Trust has kept over 650 acres of rich, productive soil in permanent working-farm status. Nearly two miles of shoreline, 208 acres of Crockett Lake wetlands, as well as rare old-growth forest and two native prairies remain as part of the Reserve's amazing natural

legacy. These conserved lands draw visitors from near and far and add immeasurably to the local economy and quality of life.

Admiralty Inlet Preserve is one of the Land Trust's newest nature preserves. Open to the public, visitors will see an old-growth forest, prairie, birds and stunning views of the beach below. It's the perfect place to take in the outdoors, see wildlife and enjoy nature. There's a loop trail on the property that is open to the public for walking, although at this time there's no parking area. A second trail along Engle Road was recently completed and is also open to the public. The goal for the trail is a network of connected natural trails from Camp Casey to Ebey's Landing.

To learn more about the programs of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, visit our website at [www.wclt.org](http://www.wclt.org). — *Whidbey Camano Land Trust*

## EBEY'S PRAIRIE: THE STORY BEHIND AN EVER CHANGING MOSAIC

THE FARM FIELDS OF EBEY'S PRAIRIE form a colorful patchwork of tan, gold, brown and green. The pattern tells a story that began October 15, 1850, when Whidbey Island's first permanent Euro-American settler, Isaac N. Ebey, laid claim to 640 acres of open prairie. Ebey's claim was oriented across the bottom of the open prairie, quite unlike the later claims that would follow an orderly north-south, east-west pattern.

The roads and fields you see today still trace the outlines of these early land claims and farm fields. Look carefully and the most northern corner of Isaac Ebey's claim is as distinctive as ever, marked by the intersection of Cemetery Road, and Cook Road.

Prairie crops are more diverse today than in Isaac Ebey's time. Farmers select those well adapted to the unique maritime environment within the "rain shadow" of the nearby Olympic Mountains. This year's crops include alfalfa, grass, seed peas, seed beets, corn, squash, pumpkins, winter sown barley, spring sown barley, wheat, oats, seed cabbage, grass seed, beans and a wide variety of garden vegetables. It is the planting, maturation and harvesting of these crops that provides the constantly changing patchwork pattern you see. — *Ebey Road Farm*



*"As Farmers in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, we are committed to preserving our rural working community and heritage. The prairies of Central Whidbey have sustained agriculture for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years, beginning with Skagit Indians and continuing to the present. We carry on a tradition of diverse, sustainable agriculture that Ebey's Landing farmers have practiced since the first donation land claims of 1850. We are honored to continue living our unique rural heritage today while protecting our rich agricultural lands and maintaining historical connections for generations to come."*

— The Farmers of Ebey's Reserve



## 120,000 Years of Local History

(Continued from p. 1)

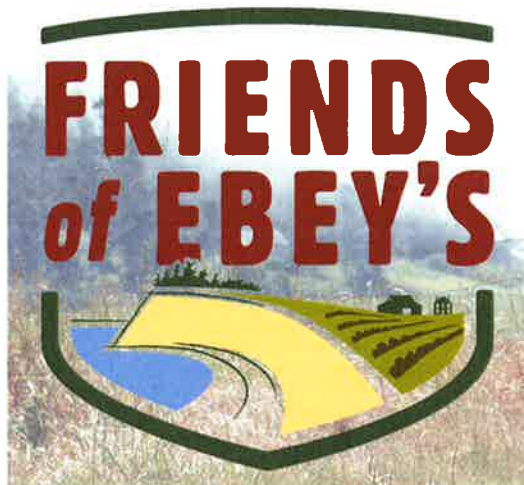
– but it did get ICHS off and running, and since then, the Society has collected and preserved thousands of photos, documents, and other ephemera which help interpret Island County history. The local collection of artifacts includes the first car on Whidbey Island (a 1902 Holsman Autobody), the Alexander Blockhouse, 8 Native American cedar dugout canoes, and so much more – from sewing needles to cannon balls!

ICHS is open daily, 11am-4pm year-round, and features occasional guided walking tours in and around Coupeville and Ebey's Reserve. Special annual tours of Sunnyside Cemetery Tour are held each Memorial and Labor Days. These tours will introduce you to some of the colorful folks whose stories helped shape this area.

For special events and group tour information, please visit [www.islandhistory.org](http://www.islandhistory.org) or give us a call at 360.678.3310. We hope you experience a historical visit and look forward to greeting you! – *Island County Historical Society*



The Museum at the corner of Front Street and NW Alexander Street in downtown Coupeville.



HOW CAN YOU HELP sustain our nation's first and only National Historical Reserve?

The Friends of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working in cooperation with the Trust Board to fund projects and programs that help the benefit the Reserve. This includes fundraising, outreach, and building public awareness of the Reserve.

Want to be involved? Help us protect the rural character of the Reserve for future generations. Your gift will make a difference! For information about the programs we support and options for giving, please visit our website at [www.friendsofebeys.org](http://www.friendsofebeys.org) or give us a call at (360) 678-6633. Together, we will preserve Ebey's Forever!

## COUPEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Your First Stop

Located in the Old Fire Hall (905 NW Alexander Street in Downtown Coupeville, across from the Island County Museum), the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce is your first stop when visiting, and features an exhibit on Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.

### EVENTS IN THE RESERVE:

(NOTE: Dates are subject to Change – Check the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce for exact dates.)

#### March

- Penn Cove MusselFest

#### April

- Coupeville Farmers Market Opens

#### May

- Open House at Pacific Rim Institute
- Penn Cove Water Festival & Tribal Canoe Races
- Memorial Day Parade

#### June

- Coupeville Lions Club Garage Sale

#### July

- Whidbey Island Race Week (Sailboat Races on Penn Cove)
- Friends of Ebey's Annual Picnic
- Lavender Wind Festival

#### August

- Race the Reserve – Half Marathon, 10k and 5k Race/Walk
- Coupeville Arts Festival

#### September

- Annual Raptor Day
- Whidbey Island Farm Tour
- Whidbey Island Kite Festival
- Tour de Whidbey Bike Race

#### October

- Haunting of Coupeville – Hallowe'en events throughout the month including the Halloween Parade!

#### November

- Trust Board Community Potluck

#### December

- Greening of Coupeville – Fun Run, Holiday Parade and Parade of Lighted Ships.

Visit the Coupeville Chamber of Commerce on-line at

[www.coupevillechamber.com](http://www.coupevillechamber.com)

## PASSPORT TO YOUR NATIONAL PARK



SINCE 1872, when the first national park was created by Congress, people from all over the United States, if not from around the world, have enjoyed the treasures of this country.

Be it monument, historic site, park, preserve or reserve, one of the best ways to commemorate these places is through the Passport to Your National Parks! The Passport is your guide to the national treasures in America.

Visitors to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve may have their passports stamped at several locations in and around the town of Coupeville:

- The Cottage at Sunnyside (162 Cemetery Rd.)
- The Coupeville Chamber of Commerce (905 NW Alexander St.)
- The Island County Historical Museum (908 NW Alexander St.)
- The Captain Whidbey Inn (2072 West Captain Whidbey Inn Rd.)
- Fort Ebey State Park (400 Hill Valley Dr.)
- Fort Casey State Park (1280 Engle Rd.)
- Admiralty Head Lighthouse (1280 Engle Rd.)
- Jacob & Sarah Ebey House (Summer Season only – hike the Farm Lane to the house)

If you're interested in securing a Passport to Your National Parks, visit [www.eparks.com](http://www.eparks.com). They have a variety of books to choose from, and stop by to get your passport stamped!

## Acknowledgements:

Thank you to our community and everyone who helps make the Reserve's visitors feel welcome. Financial support was provided by the Friends of Ebey's Reserve, Town of Coupeville 2% Hotel/Motel funds, and Washington

State Parks. Very special thanks to Denis Hill and Whidbey Panoramas for sharing extraordinary photographs of the Reserve.

